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INDIA

BRIEFS

CONTRABAND OPIUM SEIZED--New Delhi, 25 Nov--Three kilograms of opium worth about Rs4,000 was seized last night from Ajit Singh, of Karnal, by Delhi police. A case under the Opium Act has been registered against Ajit Singh at the Tilak Nagar police station. [Text] [Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 29 Nov 76 p 3 BK]

OPIUM SEIZED--Sara Banki, 27 Nov (SAMACHAR)--The Narcotics Department recovered 70 kg of contraband opium from a car on the Bara Banki-Lucknow Road yesterday. On a tip-off the district opium officers along with two opium inspectors intercepted the vehicle carrying over Rs70,000 worth of the contraband concealed in a secret chamber underneath the back seat of the car and seized the opium. This contraband was being taken to Delhi, the police said. [Text] [Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 28 Nov 76 p 4 BK]

CSO: 5300

INDONESIA

NARCOTICS TRAFFIC IN BALI DESCRIBED

Jakarta ANGKATAN BERSENJATA in Indonesian 27 Oct 76 p 5

[Article: "Bali: A Sorry Place for Illegal Narcotics Traffic"]

[Text] Jakarta (AB)--The Bali area is a sorry place for the transit of illegal narcotics smuggled overseas, principally to Australia, according to Brig Gen Police M Taslim Ibrahim, director for narcotics research, KOSERSE POLRI [Republic of Indonesia Police Research Command] in a special interview recently.

Data collected on the operation launched in 1973, show that not all smugglers come from Indonesia; some are foreign nationals who are in a certain syndicate. They have neatly divided their tasks among the members, including those who are especially assigned to find narcotics and gather them up. Others are assigned to transport them on domestic aircraft or other types of transportation. Among them are those who are assigned specifically to Bali to fly the narcotics to designated countries, including Australia.

Within the framework of preventing this smuggling between Indonesia and Australia, cooperation was initiated in 1973 for a joint operation. It was called Operation Comet. This operation succeeded in catching a marihuana smuggling syndicate network in Denpasar, Jakarta and Medan and also in Australia.

In 1974 several foreign pleasure craft were suspected of sailing the Nusatenggara seas and often smuggling marihuana to Australia. Finally, suspicion was confirmed by the capture of the pleasure craft "SV Vinisterra" on 5 October 1974 in the port of Benoa, Bali. Upon investigation, it was discerned that it would have smuggled marihuana to Australia.

Data from year to year show rising figures for both marihuana [smuggling] and the persons involved in the crime or misuse (read smuggling) of narcotics in Bali alone.

In 1974 more than 1.5 tons of marihuana and 11,046 marihuana plants were destroyed. In 1975 more than 1.2 tons and 15,076 plants were destroyed. For the first semester of 1976, 1.1 tons of marihuana leaves and an additional 167 plants were destroyed.

Seventeen foreign nationals were seized in 1974 for involvement in the misuse of narcotics in Bali. Twenty-two persons were seized in the following year and 14 foreign nationals were arrested in the first half of 1976.

Further, according to Brig Gen Taslim, prior to the marihuana smuggling affair involving 664.1 kilograms of marihuana in Bali some time ago, those assigned in the narcotics sector at the Denpasar-Bali Ngurah Rai International Airport often foiled the smuggling of various types of narcotics such as opium, morphine, heroin, hashish from overseas and also marihuana from in-country sources which would be smuggled from Indonesia overseas, principally to Australia and New Zealand. In addition, POLRI in Bali also conducted local operations, for instance, the Sinar and Tokek operations. The conclusion may be drawn from these various operations that Bali has been used by international narcotics smugglers as a "transit area."

Responsibility

Viewing the evidence and estimates that transit activities will increase in the future in Bali, the police have positively proclaimed their responsibility for efforts to counter it. According to the POLRI narcotics research director, there is nothing left to do but to carry out tactics and techniques for "maintaining the law" by cultivating and developing the best possible cooperation with other agencies such as customs, immigration, the judiciary and ABRI [Republic of Indonesia Armed Forces] elements.

In addition there must be overseas cooperation, for instance, with Interpol, and bilateral and multilateral tactical, technical and enforcement cooperation with other nations.

This sort of situation apparently does not only occur in Bali but it primarily focuses the attention of the officials in charge on all areas of traffic activities such as Aceh, North Sumatra and Medan, Jakarta, Surabaya and Bali itself, via sea, land and air facilities. It can thus be concluded that Bali is one of the "central points" of activity in a wide area which includes lines of illegal narcotics traffic to Australia.

Recounting the seizure of 664.1 kilograms of smuggled marihuana in Bali some time ago, Taslim stated that the two foreign nationals involved did not make only one or two flights on the same aircraft via Bali. Attention was called to this in March 1976. If he was not mistaken, they had flown for the sixth time up and down via Bali when they were caught carrying marihuana. Prior to that time they had only conducted "psywarfare" against the officials in charge at the airfield. Each time they landed and were inspected, of course, no corroborating evidence was found that they were carrying banned goods.

This is done often and is intended to lull those assigned so that at a specific time the smuggler will escape inspection while carrying the goods as planned. Nevertheless the officers in charge were pretty well acquainted with their operation and were not influenced by the smokescreen which they tried to throw up. Several bribes worth hundreds of thousands were offered to them with a note asking that they be freed. However, the officers in charge who were assigned earlier, continued to refuse the bribes so the smugglers could not make any move and were arrested. Reportedly the two smugglers, white men, will be tried on Dewata Island in the near future.

If we look at the new narcotics law which was just ratified by the DPR [Parliament] recently, it is made clear there that each distributor, possessor or hoarder of narcotics and related drugs can be liable to punishment, even punishment by death. Governor Ali Sadikin has recommended that narcotics distributors just be shot to death.

In this connection, the narcotics research director agrees even more that the two smugglers be sentenced to death because, in principle, whether the crime is that of a distributor or a go-between, narcotics is a "slow" killer.

The danger will be even greater further if the young generation is devoured by it. Whether they want to or not, they will be killed, though slowly. For this reason Brig Gen Taslim believes that rather than us having many narcotics victims, it is better that we first kill only a few individuals (meaning distributors and smugglers).

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CSO: 5300

INDONESIA

NARCOTICS SITUATION IN NORTH SUMATRA

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 12 Nov 76 p 2

[Article: "North Sumatra a Critical Area for Narcotics"]

[Excerpt] According to Police Brigadier General Drs Muryono, the chief of Police Region II/North Sumatra, North Sumatra can be called a critical area as regards the misuse of narcotics since it is a marihuana supply-area and a transit area for narcotics that are forwarded to other areas of Indonesia.

Much marihuana is grown in North Sumatra, particularly in the areas of Tanah Karo, Simalungun, and Tapanuli Selatan.

The type of narcotic most widely misused is marihuana. Morphine is in second place. Thus far no use of heroin has been detected.

Police records on marihuana smoking and the misuse of narcotics show that in 1975 there were 20 cases of marihuana smoking involving 64 persons and 159 grams of marihuana. There was one case of opium smoking involving 2 persons. In 1976 there have been 13 cases of marihuana smoking involving 32 persons and 12 grams of marihuana.

Many of the morphine addicts either go undetected or are moved out of North Sumatra by their parents after becoming addicts. Also, when morphine addicts are treated in this area the fact that they are being treated is concealed.

According to Muryono, the great majority of the persons who use marihuana and morphine are teenagers, and this has resulted in an increase in the number of cases of rape and murder. The smoking of marihuana by teenagers began in North Sumatra around 1970. In 1974 there were indications that proscribed drugs, such as mandrax, were being misused, and in 1975 there were cases involving the misuse of morphine.

5458

CSO: 5300

SOUTH KOREA

BRIEFS

DRUG SMUGGLING--Pusan, 27 Nov--Three persons were put under arrest today for smuggling philopon into Japan aboard ocean-going ships. Pak Mu-woong, 35, and two others, all of them of Pusan, had diverted some 6,200 grams of the stimulant worth 40 million won (80,000 U.S. dollars) to customers in Hyogo Prefecture, Japan, on 10 occasions, according to police. They were nabbed on 15 November on charges of breaking the habit-forming drug control law, they said. [Text] [Seoul HAPTONG in English 0235 GMT 27 Nov 76 SK]

CRACKDOWN ON DRUGS--Seoul, 1 Dec--A total of 1,104 persons have been rounded up across the country since the discipline-minded government started an intensive crackdown drive on marihuana traffickers and users December last year as part of efforts to root out elements detrimental to the social development. According to statistics made known by the prosecution today, 669 of them were formally indicted on charges of breaking the stern habit-forming drug control law. Of the total number, 121 were arrested without physical detention, 216 were admonished and 98, most of them foreigners including American military personnel, were referred to the authorities concerned, the statistics said. During the 1-year period, they said, 292 kgs of hemp, 3,268 marihuana cigarettes, 4,350 hashish cigarettes and 5 kgs of hemp sap were also confiscated by government narcotics agents. The prosecution said that by occupations and ages, youngsters topped the list with 38.6 percent of the total law violators. It was followed by college flunkies with 18.9 percent, students with 16.3 percent and show business personalities with 12.5 percent. [Excerpt] [Seoul HAPTONG in English 0310 GMT 1 Dec 76 SK]

CSO: 5300

CANADA

LEADER SENTENCED FOR CONSPIRACY TO TRAFFIC IN HASHISH

Toronto THE SATURDAY GLOBE AND MAIL in English 13 Nov 76 p 11

[Text] Brampton--Four people convicted of conspiracy to traffic in a ton of hashish were sentenced yesterday by a Peel County Court judge to jail terms ranging from 6 months to 7 years.

A fifth person, Robert Rowbotham, 25, formerly of Beeton, is facing trial on a charge of conspiracy to import the same ton of hashish. He and the others were charged in 1974 with six different narcotic offences, including conspiracy to traffic and conspiracy to import.

Federal prosecutor Patrick Duffy said yesterday, however, that in the case of the four, he will not proceed with the importing and other charges.

Judge Stephen Borins sentenced David Cripps, 30, of Mississauga, to 7 years, naming him the leader of the conspirators. "Mr Cripps was the one that got the others together," the judge remarked.

Linda Martyniuk, 25, of Toronto, was sentenced to an indeterminate term not to exceed 6 months; Steven Assaff, 22, of Collingwood, was sentenced to 2 years less a day definite and 2 years indeterminate; and Carl Minor, 23, of Toronto, was sentenced to 12 months in reformatory.

Judge Borins said the hashish was worth about \$2 million in 1973, and was a potential danger to the welfare of the community.

Evidence at the sentencing hearing showed that the hashish, packed in 16 wooden crates, was discovered at Toronto International Airport by the RCMP. The police removed the drug and, after refilling the crates with sawdust, began to keep a watch on them.

On 8 January 1974, police raided a home on Lacondra Drive in Mississauga and arrested the four people sentenced yesterday. Police had followed a truck carrying the 16 crates from the airport to a Mississauga plaza, then to a Bramalea factory where the load was split in two for easier transportation to the Mississauga home.

Statements given to police and read in court showed that Assaff was paid \$1,000 for helping Cripps while Minor was paid \$400 for driving the truck from the airport to the plaza.

The judge said Miss Martyniuk, being of "weak character," was taken advantage of by Cripps, who coerced her into renting the Mississauga home.

Judge Borins said the operation was a large-scale one, but not cleverly conceived. He said all the crates were addressed to the same person in care of Different Things Inc. and arrived at the airport together.

The judge said that it was an appeal court ruling that unless there were exceptional circumstances, a jail sentence was necessary for trafficking. He added that Parliament looked at the offence seriously since it had prescribed a maximum sentence of life.

The judge also placed Martyniuk, Assaff and Minor on 2 years' probation after their jail terms.

Earlier this week, the judge turned down a motion from Rowbotham's lawyer that the four should not be sentenced until Rowbotham's trial is completed. Lawyers for the other four had argued against this motion.

CSO: 5300

CANADA

PEEL, OTTAWA POLICE SEIZE HASHISH IN RAIDS

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 16 Nov 76 p 8

[Text] Mississauga--A joint police investigation resulted in the seizure of more than 600 pounds of hashish valued at \$1.2 million from a Mississauga warehouse yesterday, RCMP said.

Earlier, police in Ottawa seized nearly 400 pounds of hashish. A police spokesman said the total seizure was half a ton, valued at more than \$2.2 million.

Peel Regional Police and Toronto and Mississauga drug squads of the RCMP yesterday arrested a Mississauga man, three Ottawa residents and have begun attempts to extradite a man from New Delhi and two from the Netherlands.

Arrested and charged with conspiracy to import a narcotic and with importing a narcotic to Toronto International Airport are Brij Mohan Parti of Mississauga, Stewart Settle and John Morrison of Ottawa and Dianne Seguin of Hull. Settle, Morrison and Seguin were arrested in Ottawa and are being brought to Toronto.

Police said warrants have been issued for the arrest of Amrit Seth of New Delhi, and Gurdev Singh Sangha and Tarsein Singh Sangha of the Netherlands.

CSO: 5300

CANADA

TWO FACE HEROIN CHARGES

Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 4 Nov 76 p 13

[Text] Nanaimo--Two persons are in police custody here following the seizure Wednesday of a quantity of heroin which police say has a street value of between \$75,000 and \$100,000.

Police said the seizure came about Wednesday afternoon as the result of an investigation by Nanaimo and Victoria RCMP drug squad officers and members of the Coordinated Law Enforcement Unit.

Charged with importing heroin into Canada are William Grover, 29, and Pamela Herndon, 20, both of Nanaimo. The two also face charges of possession of heroin for the purpose of trafficking and possession of marihuana for the purpose of trafficking.

CSO: 5300

CANADA

SHAND CASE APPEALED TO HIGHER COURT

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 16 Nov 76 p 41

[Article by Michael Keating]

[Text] A Willowdale man involved in controversial narcotics and weapons cases has had one penitentiary sentence reduced and is trying to appeal the other to the Supreme Court of Canada.

On Friday three judges of the Ontario Court of Appeal reduced David Alexander Shand's 3-year term for possession of guns with silencers to 1 year.

Shand's lawyer, Alan Gold, will go before the country's highest court on 6 December seeking permission to appeal a 7-year term for importing cocaine.

The Shand drug case made legal history last January when Stephen Borins, a Peel County Court judge, invoked the Canadian Bill of Rights to rule the mandatory 7-year minimum prison term for importing narcotics was "cruel and unusual" punishment.

Judge Borins, a former associate professor at York University's Osgoode Law School, cited Section 2 (b) of the Bill of Rights, which says that:

"Every law of Canada shall...be so construed and applied as not to abrogate, abridge or infringe...any of the rights and freedoms herein recognized and declared and in particular no law of Canada shall be construed or applied so as to impose or authorize the imposition of cruel and unusual treatment or punishment."

Shand, 35, had confessed he was behind a 1974 incident in which Maxine Thompson was caught by the RCMP at Toronto International Airport with 24 ounces of cocaine worth \$24,000 in the false bottom of a suitcase. He told the court the suitcase had previously been used to smuggle pre-Colombian artifacts out of South America.

The judge said that, taking into account Shand's background, the nature and scope of the crime and the current range of sentences for closely related offences, he was breaking with the minimum and giving a reformatory sentence of 2 years less a day plus a \$5,000 fine.

In June five judges of the Ontario Court of Appeal overturned that sentence and increased the term to 7 years on an appeal by federal prosecutors.

In April, Shand appeared before a county court judge in Toronto and pleaded guilty to possession of prohibited weapons. He had two rifles and a pistol equipped with silencers.

Shand told the court he used a rifle with a silencer for poaching deer without being detected and had one weapon mounted on the chesterfield of his apartment because of a previous attempted break-in.

Judge E. J. Houston made his 3-year term consecutive to any other terms facing Shand.

CSO: 5300

CANADA

WARNING ON EFFECTS OF HALLUCINOGENIC MUSHROOM

Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 3 Nov 76 p 12

[Text] Mushroom hunters who find the so-called "happy mushroom" are likely to get sick as well as high if they eat it, health authorities warned Monday.

Hundreds of people swarmed around the Vancouver International Airport, as well as in parts of Burnaby and Surrey on the weekend, hunting for amanita muscaria, a hallucinogenic mushroom which, police say, is "in" among young people.

"It's a little late in the season but there are a lot of people out there looking for happy mushrooms," a Richmond RCMP spokesman said. "There were a lot of people hunting around the airport on Sunday."

He said most of the hunters were young people apparently bent on getting a cheap high.

He said police have no active interest in the craze, even though the hallucinogenic contained in the mushroom is illegal under the Food and Drug Act.

A spokesman for the Richmond health department warned that the mushroom that gives people a high also contains a toxin that makes them sick in their stomachs.

In addition, he said, there is always the danger of unknowingly eating a really dangerous variety.

Richmond General Hospital reported a case of mushroom poisoning on the weekend--a young man who said he had eaten a mushroom given to him by someone else. He was pumped out and released.

CSO: 5300

REPORT ON PRACTICE OF GASOLINE SNIFFING

Ottawa: THE CITIZEN in English 24 Nov 76 p 82

[Text] There may be large numbers of children living in remote communities who are suffering from a type of lead poisoning caused by sniffing gasoline, a government report says.

"Gasoline sniffing is a serious and potentially fatal practice and may constitute a major medical and social problem in many isolated communities in North America," says the report written by a doctor, a biochemist and a medical student.

The report--which has not yet been made public--is based on medical surveys of children living in three small northern Manitoba communities--Shamattawa, Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi.

Since the first draft of the report was written in late 1975, two Shamattawa children, known to be heavy gasoline sniffers, have died and 44 of the community's children, some as young as 4 years old, have required hospital treatment for an average of 3 months each for lead poisoning, R. L. Boeckx, one of the report's authors, said Monday.

The federal health department has launched a survey of 20 other Manitoba communities to determine the incidence of gasoline sniffing, and another survey of Shamattawa's 340 children confirmed the report's estimate that between 50 and 60 percent of those children are currently gasoline sniffers, Mr Boeckx said.

"It was thought that virtually all of the children in the community had sniffed gasoline at one time or another during the past few years," the report said.

The document said 59 percent of the 84 children tested in Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi sniffed gasoline and 5 percent had more than normal quantities of lead in their blood.

But those communities are not the only ones known to have children sniffing gasoline.

A spokesman for the Addiction Research Foundation of Ontario said 30 children in Grades 2 to 9 in Moose Factory and at least five children in nearby Moosonee were recently found to be gasoline sniffers.

The children now are being counselled by public health officials, and video tapes about sniffing are to be prepared in both English and Cree.

Symptoms of gasoline intoxication include confusion, excitement, blurred vision, trembling, staggering gait and nausea.

One federal health official in Ottawa called tetraethyl lead poisoning a "grey area in toxicology." Very little was known about it, particularly the long-term effects on children and whether the poisoning will lead to permanent learning defects.

But it is known that children absorb the lead into their systems faster than adults and need less lead before beginning to show symptoms of lead poisoning, he said.

Treatment for the poisoning consists essentially of flushing the blood out with a series of chemicals--a long, complex, delicate procedure that can be quite painful, a federal health official in Winnipeg said.

One reason the 44 Shamattawa children were kept in [the] hospital so long was to develop some recreation programs in their community to help detract their interest from sniffing, the official said.

The government opened a drop-in centre this summer in Shamattawa, a predominantly native community with high unemployment, a high rate of serious alcoholism, a history of violence and other serious social problems, Mr Boeckx said in a telephone interview from Winnipeg.

But until last week, no community worker had been hired as planned for the centre, he said. "That's 7 months later and I still don't know whether they have a worker up there."

Since the first group of 44 children were sent back to Shamattawa after being treated, four members of the group as well as one other child have been sent back to [the] hospital in Winnipeg because they started sniffing gasoline again.

"There's no staff there so what did they expect...that the problem's going to solve itself?" Mr Boeckx asked.

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

RAIDS ON COCAINE LABORATORIES--Ibague, 2 Dec--Police have uncovered two cocaine laboratories in the municipalities of Puerto Bogota and Armero in northern Tolima. In Puerto Bogota, they raided a house where a complete cocaine processing laboratory had been installed. Its owner, Jorge Gonzalez, 23-year-old Hector Martinez and 26-year-old Jose Correa were arrested. The police in Armero raided a cocaine laboratory where 2,000 grams of cocaine were confiscated. They captured Gabriel Jaramillo, Alberto Gomez Jaramillo, Libardo Blandon Londono, Jose Barrero and Alberto Giraldo. [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Dec 76 p 7-A PA]

DRUG TRAFFIC FIGURES--Cecilio Ruiz, director of the investigations department of the Finance and Treasury Ministry, has reported that 10 cases of drug trafficking and 213 cases of contraband were detected this year. He added that the narcotics section of this department seized 35.5 kilos of cocaine and arrested 22 persons in connection with drug trafficking. He noted that this year there was a total of 213 cases of contraband at Tocumen Airport, Colon Free Zone, and the border between the Republic of Panama and the Panama Canal Zone. [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 9 Dec 76 PA]

CSO: 5300

GUATEMALA

COCAINE WORTH \$2.5 MILLION SEIZED IN JUTIAPA

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 17 Nov 76 p 26-A

[Text] Guatemala, 16 November--Some \$2.5 million is the estimated value of the pure cocaine seized by Guatemalan drug and narcotics agents in Ciudad Alvarado, Jutiapa, from U.S. nationals John Douglas Ciggs and Mark Williams Richardson and Australian Desmond John Lees. The police had received information that the contraband was to be brought into Guatemala from El Salvador and this led to the arrest of the three drug dealers at the border. The three were riding in a jeep with California license plates. There were five Hawaiian surfboards in the jeep in which the police found 13.5 kilos of refined cocaine.

John Douglas Giggs [sic] told the police that he had been hired in August in San Diego, California, by a man named "Tom" to travel to Central America to pick up the shipment for which he was to be paid \$500 and given some of the cocaine for his personal use.

In El Salvador, Douglas said, he met Richardson in a hotel in La Libertad where they were joined by the Australian Lees. Lees was to travel with them to San Diego through El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico to deliver the drug. On the 12th of this month the surfboards with the cocaine were delivered to them by two men called David and Jerry, according to the detainees, and they were given final instructions.

After they crossed the border, the police said, the three were arrested after the agents opened the three [sic] boards used in water sports. It was reported that the police are waiting for information on the smugglers from the United States, Mexico and South America which they hope will help to locate the smugglers base of operations which is believed to be in San Francisco, California.

8599

CSO: 5330

MEXICO

U.S. DEMAND FOSTERS SINALOA DRUG PRODUCTION

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 16 Nov 76 p 4-A

/Text/ Culiacan, Sinaloa, 15 November--Sinaloa Senator Gilberto Ruiz Almada said today that the demand from the U.S. drug market is the most significant visible cause for the cultivation of poppies and marihuana in the country and, according to Governor Alfonso Velarde, it has led to increased violence and revenge in Sinaloa which has taken hundreds of lives.

Ruiz Almada and Calderon Velarde spoke about the drug problem this morning in separate forums. Ruiz made his comments in a special interview while the governor's comments were contained in his second report on his administration. Calderon Velarde called for President Echeverria's support to combat the problem and pointed to the need for laws to protect the people who are desperately and rightfully demanding protection from authorities at all levels.

The data supplied by the Federal Judicial Police on the drug traffic in Sinaloa show that between November 1975 and November of this year 22,634 poppy fields covering a 54,545,000 square meter area and 9,280 marihuana fields covering a 19,062,880 square meter area were destroyed. Ruiz Almada also underlined the need for an uninterrupted fight against the production of drugs and the drug traffic.

Drug Fight Everyone's Responsibility

Ruiz Almada added that the drug traffic and the production of narcotics created a problem that was the responsibility of the public and said that it was a mistake to blame the government for its existence. "This serious problem will be solved with the participation of all Mexicans," he said again. He added that the success of government operations was significant and recognized not only in Mexico but in the United States as well.

With respect to the magnitude of the problem, Ruiz Almada said that in recent years it had decreased thanks to the work of the Mexican Attorney General's Office which has destroyed a majority of the fields in Sinaloa.

Ruiz Almada added that in addition to the existing criminal measures against drug dealers, it is just as important to provide legislation which will provide employment in the industrial or agricultural sectors for those unemployed groups in those areas where marihuana and poppies have traditionally been grown.

8599

CS0: 5300

AMERICAN NEVER SET FOOT IN PRISON

Nuevo Laredo EL DIARIO DE NUEVO LAREDO in Spanish 28 Oct 76 p 1-B

[Text] The American, Curtis Russel Dantin never set foot in prison. And for no small reason. He is the son of a high official in Narcotics in the neighboring country, so was given all sorts of considerations, such as spending 14 months as a "patient" in San Jose Hospital. Reliable sources gave EL DIARIO detailed information about the true identity of Curtis Russel when he was arrested in June of 1975 with two other persons on the banks of the Rio Bravo by the Federal Judicial Police. Russel Dantin and his companions were attempting to cross to the American side with a shipment of marihuana.

When it was established that Russel Dantin was the son of a chief of Narcotics in Texas, they immediately began to arrange for him not to have to go to jail, and did nothing less than send him to San Jose Hospital, supposedly with a broken right foot. In San Jose Hospital, taking advantage of his good looks, Curtis Russel Dantin charmed an infinite number of nurses there to gain their full confidence and later carry out his plans for escape.

In the Third District Court the trial was begun against Curtis Russel Dantin for a crime against health. His participation was established and the judge was about to pronounce sentence against him. Therefore Russel Dantin proceeded to carry out his escape plan and succeeded, escaping from San Jose Hospital in a suspicious manner. Such was the confidence in the now-escapee that he was daily allowed to go to the hospital chapel to hear Mass.

Federal Judicial Police report that they are intensifying the investigation and as of yesterday it was established that nurse Juana Martinez Salazar had nothing to do with the escape of Russel Dantin.

8587
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

WEAPONS, POPPIES AND MARIHUANA FALL TO ARMY CAMPAIGN

Mexico City EL SOL DE MEXICO in Spanish 16 Nov 76 p 14-A

[Text] Over the past few days the 15,000 soldiers assigned to the anti-drug campaign have destroyed 23,877,790 poppy and marihuana plants in the states of Chihuahua, Sinaloa, Durango, Nayarit, Michoacan, Guerrero and Oaxaca and the 32 persons that were arrested have already been arraigned.

The Secretary of Defense announced yesterday that 5th Military Zone troops in Chihuahua located and destroyed 74 poppy fields containing an estimated 5 million plants in Stan Cruz, Junta de Caminos, El Triguito, El Fresno, El Encinal, San Juan Nepomuceno, Guadalupe y Calvo and Batopilas and arrested two suspects.

Ninth Military Zone troops in Culiacan, Sinaloa, destroyed 17,877,790 poppy plants covering a 9,000 square meter area in Santiago de los Caballeros, El Carrizo, Ahome, Badiraguato, Sinaloa de Leyva, El Zacatillo and La Vainilla. They also destroyed 6 marihuana fields with over a million plants and arrested 30 suspected drug dealers. Four presses including an electric one, four hydraulic jacks, 3 kilos of opium, seven firearms, 7,026 kilograms of marihuana and three vehicles used for transporting the marihuana were seized.

The drugs, weapons, vehicles and other paraphernalia and the suspects were turned over to civilian authorities.

The army also conducted operations to neutralize the activities of the growers and drug traffickers in the 10th Zone in Durango, the 13th Zone in Nayarit, the 21st Zone in Michoacan, the 27th Zone in Guerrero, the 28th Zone in Oaxaca, the 31st Zone in Chiapas and the 35th Zone in Chilpancingo, Guerrero.

8599
CSO: 5300

MEXICO

CHARGE NO ACTION TAKEN AGAINST DRUGS

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 25 Oct 76 p 5-I

[Text] A year after being commissioned to fight drug traffic and federal crimes from the central part of the state to the border, we have seen no action whatsoever by the group head of the Federal Judicial Police, Francisco Fernandez Marin, and those under him. Something worse than with the others has perhaps happened with them, as this group head came preceded by the fame of Salvador del Toro Rosales, Special Agent of the Attorney General of the Republic and Coordinator of Agencies of the Federal Public Ministry of the states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo and Coahuila.

"We are disciples of Del Toro," Francisco Fernandez Marin might have said to some members of the press, adding that they brought instructions to fight all types of crime "no matter who falls." However up to this time, he has not acted on his own; he has gotten everything on a silver platter, doing a police desk job. This situation has caused a feeling of real insecurity in Coahuila, if one considers what happened recently in Zaragoza, Coahuila, where the Municipal Police and State Judicial Police announced the seizure of 2 1/2 tons of marihuana intended for Ciudad Acuna, Coahuila, in particular, to Hector and Raul Diego, according to the investigations.

Reliable sources told EL DIARIO that the only "catch" that can be attributed to Group Head Francisco Fernandez Marin is the seizure of more than 1/2 kg of pure heroin from Jose Antonio Garcia, alias "El Tony," presently in prison in the United States, after having escaped with Rosalinda Garcia, in an attack on the police headquarters on 12 March of this year, together with several federal prisoners. However the sources stated that [the seizure] occurred thanks to agents of the Federal Judicial Police of Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas, having followed "El Tony" from that border city and then asking the intervention of Fernandez Marin as group head of the Federal Judicial Police in the arrest of "El Tony," which occurred in the "El Palenque" bar in Villa de Fuente, Coahuila. The bar was closed as a result of the foregoing and is presently operating.

His actions, somewhat irregular, lend themselves to guesses that may approach the truth. The fact that drug traffic is on the decline is undeniable, but Francisco Fernandez Marin has done nothing. This may be due to two factors: First, lack of ability (which is unlikely because he is a disciple of Del Toro and second, compromises acquired in a year of apparently floating adrift, in an atmosphere full of black clouds.

MEXICO

RAFAEL CHAVEZ BALDAZO ARRESTED

Piedras Negras EL DIARIO in Spanish 1 Nov 76 p 8-II

[Text] Today the notorious Rafael Chavez Baldazo will testify before State District Judge Jose Becerra Santiago. Chavez Baldazo, who is constantly linked to drug traffic, was arrested by agents of the Federal Judicial Police on a warrant. The action of the police resulted from the investigation made Friday and Saturday by the visitor from the Attorney General's office, Rodolfo Palomares Guerrero, when he investigated charges by Amadeo Ramos against the Federal Judicial Police and Rafael Chavez Baldazo.

According to information obtained by EL DIARIO, the arrest of the notorious drug trafficker Rafael Chavez Baldazo may have occurred after a prisoner on trial for possession and transport of heroin pointed him out and identified him as the person who delivered the drug to him, although he used another name.

Independent of the foregoing it was mentioned that he would have to answer the charges against him today.

Rafael Chavez Baldazo has had innumerable trials for crimes against health of various types as well as trials for trafficking in farm laborers, but in all cases has been set free due to insufficient evidence against him. But the situation this time may be different as there is that charge against him by one of the defendants, indicating Rafael Chavez Baldazo as the person who gave him a packet containing heroin, which he took or attempted to take to this city and so was arrested by police.

The arrest may have taken place at the beginning of the year when Chavez Baldazo traveled in a private truck from the interior of the country. Rafael Chavez Baldazo has repeatedly been linked with drug traffic, and though he has admitted he had such involvement he says he does not now use drugs and says his present job is as a car salesman. Nevertheless it is said that those activities are a cover for his continued illegal operations.

8587
CSO: 5330

MEXICO

'DON CUCO' GANG SMASHED

Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 30 Oct 76 p 4

[Text] Hermosillo 29 Oct. Members of the Federal Judicial Police under the command of Commander Juan Jose Hernandez de Castillo completely crushed a dangerous drug trafficking gang which produced marihuana, refined heroin and transported drugs to the United States. The arrests were made after an intense investigation. Everything began with the arrest of Victor Manuel Gomez Pena and Rafael Antonio Heradia, both members of the drug dealers' "Mafia." They were in the act of transporting heroin to the United States at the time of their arrests by the Federal Judicial Police. They were found to have 188 grams of pure heroin in the 1976 blue Volkswagen, license REF-277 of Nayarit State which they were driving to the U. S. border.

As soon as they were questioned they stated that their supplier was Jose Luis Buenrostro, a very well-known person in Los Mochis, Sinaloa, society. Agents went immediately to Los Mochis, where Buenrostro opened fire on them when they attempted to arrest him at his home. During the tremendous gunfight, Buenrostro was heard to shout as he fired "You will have to kill me to take me out of here." The fight lasted several minutes, then the skill of the agents won out and they were able to arrest the dangerous "boss" after he received a bullet wound in the abdomen, which was not serious.

After receiving medical attention, Buenrostro was taken under his own power to this city for questioning. He confessed the names and addresses of the two principal marihuana growers and heroin refiners, who are Refugio Lopez Labrada and Jose Verduzco Cuadras. Agents led by Comdr Juan Jose Hernandez del Castillo set out immediately and with every precaution to arrest the two dangerous "Mafiosi," finally capturing them after following them into the neighboring state of Sinaloa. These last two, like the others, were taken to this capital for investigation. Leads discovered and investigated by agents of Hernandez del Castillo revealed the "contact" of this gang in Nogales, known in the underworld as "Don Cuco." However, despite every effort of the Judicial Police, he escaped justice.

8587

CSO: 5330

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFIC DISCUSSED--The chief of the third group of the Michoacan State Judicial Police, Israel Gonzalez Gutierrez, yesterday told EL FRONTERIZO that the worst states for drug traffic and stupifacients are Guerrero, Oaxaca, Michoacan and Sinaloa. They are the states where marihuana is most cultivated, and then taken in various ways to the United States by drug traffickers. He added that the mountains of Tierra Caliente, La Amapola and La Yerbita in Michoacan, because of a lack of good land routes, were becoming the largest cultivators of "cannibis indica." However now there is such a fierce effort against these criminal activities that scores of persons are being brought to trial in the district courts of that state. The worst part, he added, is that the police always capture the so-called "burros," not the heads of the operations, despite the fact that they are well identified, since ignorant peasants are used for those operations. Finally he said that the real traffickers in recent months are becoming so clever that a strange case occurred: on the Playa Azul-Uruapan road a large shipment of marihuana was discovered in a Red Cross ambulance in which the traffickers were supposed to be carrying a dead body. When authorities became suspicious they discovered 100 kilos of marihuana in the coffin instead of the corpse. The largest "bust" was the seizure last year of 100 tons of marihuana. All the criminals were arrested. [Text] [Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 19 Oct 76 p 3-A] 8587

HEROIN, MARIHUANA, COCAINE SEIZED--San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, 18 Oct. A light plane loaded with marihuana, as well as heroin and cocaine were seized and five persons arrested by members of the Federal Judicial Police led by Arturo Rojas Diaz. The Pipe Cherokee 32-300, registration NAZ and piloted by Christopher Williams Wood was found on a secret landing strip 8 kms from the Gulf of Santa Clara. Inside were 280 packets of marihuana. The American said he was from Yuma and he was taking the marihuana to Mexicali. In the Luis B. Sanchez Railway Station, Rosario Lopez Cuevas and Guadalupe Calderon were arrested. They stated they were waiting for Juan Enrique Garcia, who was coming from Culiacan, and upon his arrival he was found to be carrying five small packets of heroin in his suitcase and in the soles of his shoes. Elsewhere, Hilaria Carmona Espinoza, 36, was arrested carrying 211 grams of heroin and 137 grams of cocaine. [Text] [Nogales DIARIO DE NOGALES in Spanish 29 Oct 76 p 4] 8587

PERUVIAN WITH COCAINE--A formal order of confinement was issued yesterday against Rosa Eyzaguirre, the Peruvian student who was arrested at the airport here on her arrival from Bogota, Colombia, with 3 kilos of pure cocaine wrapped in several plastic bags which were hidden in a suitcase with a false top and bottom. The 24-year old, second-year sociology student told District Judge Raul Diaz Infante that her boyfriend, Uruguayan Victor Estevenson, asked her to transport the suitcase which he delivered to her in Bogota. She was to deliver the suitcase to a person who was to claim it at the Milan Hotel on Alvaro Obregon Street. The young woman said that her boyfriend did not warn her about the danger involved in transporting the suitcase. The Peruvian student also said that this was her first trip to Mexico and the first time she has been charged with transporting drugs. She said that her boyfriend convinced her that he was a travel agent because he made frequent trips to different countries. She described him as being white with a medium build and black hair, a sharp dresser who wore platform shoes. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 17 Nov 76 p 26-A] 8599

MARIHUANA SEIZURE--Juchitan, Oaxaca, 13 November--Four men armed with automatic rifles who were about to rob a gas station in La Ventosa were arrested by Federal Judicial Police agents while a few kilometers away 33 marihuana bricks worth 250,000 pesos were seized. The two incidents appear to be connected. Federal Judicial Police Chief Julian Bautista Martinez reported that last night he saw four men get out of a Willys truck in front of the gas station. He decided to arrest them because they were armed with automatic rifles. A few minutes later, Bautista said, a blue truck approached the station but when the occupants saw the police they fled. The police pursued the truck but were unable to arrest anyone. At a curve in the road, 33 marihuana bricks weighing 9 kilos each were thrown from the truck. The black market value of the marihuana was estimated at 250,000 pesos. Bautista said that there is some connection between the two incidents which is being investigated. The suspects were identified as Pablo Barrera Sosa, Leoncio San German, Nicaro Diaz Sosa and Luis Mijangos who were jailed. The marihuana was wrapped in plastic bags with Petroleos Mexicanos seals on them and is being held by the authorities. The police believe that the suspects are from Chiapas. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 14 Nov 76 p 26-A] 8599

CSO: 5300

PARAGUAY

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--According to a report submitted to the Supreme Court the following persons were detained for trafficking in and possession of cocaine: Eulalio Roman Ramirez, Felix Chavez, Andres Genes Romero and Patricio Galeano. All of them are Paraguayan citizens. [Asuncion ABC Color in Spanish 3 Dec 76 p 30 PY]

CSO: 5300

PERU

DAILY COMMENTS ON DRUG ADDICTION AND FANATICISM

Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 3 Nov 76 p 10

[Article by Jorge Luis Castel]

[Text] Recently, the pages of our daily newspapers have carried out an intensive campaign against drug use. They have called the attention of police, educational and family authorities to the need for coordinated action to stop the devastating effect of drug addiction.

Thousands of young persons are under the influence of the pernicious effects of drugs. Thousands of others are in danger of the trap which is being laid for them by drug pushers.

Let us speak clearly. The authorities have not done everything they could to stop the scourge. There has been leniency in different sectors: police, educational and family. There can be no other explanation for the present state of affairs. The figures--victims and traffic--are alarming.

There is another scourge that is just as bad as drug consumption, namely a fanaticism which saps the possibilities of the individual and ends by castrating him. In this instance, as in the previous one, the antidote--education--lacks the desired effectiveness.

Drugs destroy a person physically, his health and his genetic possibilities. At the same time, they undermine his spiritual faculties and finally cast him into the swamp. At the outset, something can be done to save him; however, when the ravages are advanced, little or nothing can be done, even with the most rigorous medical treatment.

Fanaticism penetrates the psychological mechanisms and perverts the intellectual faculties of man. It removes him from the creative arena and delivers him defenseless to the manipulative action of agents who act upon his will and reason. Thus, the victim suffers from the wasting away of his intelligence and is incapable of acting independently from the masters who have been imposed upon him.

The fanatic, like the drug addict, is also a cripple. His mental powers have gradually weakened. He is no longer capable of accepting anything other than the "truth" which has been fabricated for him and his agony is equally painful. Frustrated, without a future, lacking humanist training, unfree, he, too, will wind up in the swamp.

What is to be done? Naturally, the problem is not within the purview of the police. This patient must be treated in another way. Therapy complements the school and the family. However, as in the case of drug addiction, treatment has a time limitation: it must be administered early.

Drug addiction and fanaticism are two scourges which threaten the life of a country. We must be on guard and take action in depth.

8143

CSO: 5300

PERU

REDUCTION IN THE USE OF COCA IS REPORTED

Lima LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Nov 76 p 3

[Text] The social and economic change brought about by the application of Agrarian Reform has caused a 35 percent decrease in the consumption of coca among the peasantry, according to ESI-PERU [expansion unknown].

Statistical data in the hands of the commission responsible for drawing up the plan for the repression of illegal drug possession indicate that in 1968 some 2 million peasants were consuming coca in Peru. Today that figure has dropped to 1.3 million.

Dr Guillermo Figallo Adrianzen, who chairs this commission, said that the greater purchasing power of the farmer has been the decisive factor in this reduction.

"For them, coca was part of their diet. Today they don't have to resort to the use of coca to make up their dietary deficiency," the judge explained.

However, to produce coca leaves for these people and industrial use in medicine and as a flavor for carbonated drinks, it would be necessary to utilize only 1,000 hectares of land for its cultivation. He said that there are coca fields on 17,000 hectares of land in Peru.

"These surplus 16,000 hectares are devoted to production for illegal purposes. It is to the eradication of these hectares that the work of the commission is directed," he indicated.

"Written agreements signed by the government provide for a gradual diminution in the number of hectares dedicated to these fields. Definitive eradication is out of the question because it would be equivalent to taking tea away from the English," Dr Figallo Adrianzen noted ironically.

With respect to these problems of coca production which serves as the basis for the manufacture of cocaine, the commission which is chaired by the Supreme Court Judge has studied innumerable solutions based upon the experience of other countries and that of this country.

"This serious social problem can only be faced resolutely if we have a competent high-level organization which has in its hands the direction of everything that has to do with this matter. It would have to be an international organization capable of financing the huge costs which would be involved in an effective effort in this sector," said Dr Figallo Adrianzen.

8143

CSO: 5300

PERU

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKERS CAPTURED--A ring of drug traffickers made up of men and women has been captured by personnel of the PIP [Peruvian Investigative Police] Anti-Drug Division. On one of the prisoners, the police found 15 kilos of basic cocaine paste which was to have been sold to foreigners who had arrived recently from Colombia. For its part, the Civil Guard of the Puente Piedra district also arrested members of another ring of criminals which was engaged in illicit trafficking in washed cocaine paste. It is known that the police also located a clandestine laboratory where these prisoners processed the paste; however, the police did not find a single gram. What happened was that after their arrest, other members of the ring who had not been apprehended had time to remove all traces of paste from the laboratory. Investigations of the two rings which were located and arrested are being conducted in collaboration with the police of several departments of the republic. It was learned unofficially yesterday that one of these rings was the supplier of basic cocaine paste to persons who make a practice of selling grams of paste in La Victoria and Rimac districts. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 1 Nov 76 p 32] 8143

SEVEN TRAFFICKERS SENTENCED--Seven drug traffickers were sentenced by the 6th Correctional Tribunal to 3-year prison terms and fined 100,000 soles civil reparations to the state. The prisoners are: Stuar Gabinbleckman [sic], Jose Juan Galindo Rodriguez, Mercedes Amelia Rodriguez Loayza, Riquelme Quiroz, Navas Galindo and Morra Presutto. During the trial, it was shown that the defendants were responsible for manufacturing cocaine hydrochloride in a clandestine laboratory which they had installed in Lince, where they processed 6 kilos of the narcotic drug. The verdict provided that after Stuar Gablinbeckman has served his prison term he will be expelled from the country by the appropriate authorities. The Correctional Tribunal which sentenced the drug traffickers was composed of Drs Guillermo Valdivieso Mendez (President) and voting judges Hernon Jordan Bertolotti and Juan Levano. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 1 Nov 76 p 32] 8143

DRUG PUSHERS ARRESTED--Several persons who were offering "small packets" of basic cocaine paste for sale were arrested by the Civil Guard of Petit

Thouars and La Victoria district. The prisoners are Carlos Flores Mejia, 28; Ramon Jara del Carpio, 24; Willy Sanchez Guerrero, 27; and Jesus Valenzuela Velasquez who were turned over to the PIP [Peruvian Investigative Police] Directorate of Narcotics. These men were discovered offering a total of 30 small packets of basic cocaine paste for sale which they said that they had purchased from "strangers" for 100 soles apiece. The arrest of the "paqueteros" [pushers] was made as part of the operation conducted by the Civil Guard of the 2d Region to combat drug trafficking. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 1 Nov 76 p 32] 8143

COCAINE LAB DISMANTLED--Seven drug traffickers were arrested by the police in the clandestine laboratory which they had set up in an old house in Piedra Puente. The prisoners are: Raul Cuzcano Marco, 29, charged with being the leader of the organization; Antonio Barrera Cardenas, 27; Aurelio Pareja Marcos, 30; Alfredo Marcos Pareja, 30; Mauro Flores Marcos; Fredy Chavez Marcox, 23; and Hugo Pareja Marcos. The police, who were shadowing the drug traffickers, finally succeeded in locating the clandestine drug processing lab the night before last. The laboratory was very well camouflaged in an old house which the drug traffickers had rented in the Puente Piedra district. When the building was raided, the police were surprised to find most of the organization members there also. In the house, the police found a well-equipped laboratory used for the manufacture of basic cocaine paste. The drug traffickers are being interrogated to determine whether they have connections in the country as well as abroad. [Text] [Lima CORREO in Spanish 2 Nov 76 p 5] 8143

DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--Several persons, including men and women, were arrested by the police in various places in Lima when it was determined that they were engaged in selling or distributing narcotic drugs, usually to school age juveniles. It was reported that the police found small packets containing paste or cocaine hydrochloride in the possession of the prisoners. Most of the arrests are taking place in Barranco, La Victoria and Magdalena. Both PIP [Peruvian Investigative Police] and the Civil Guard began operations several days ago to pick up individuals engaging in the sale or distribution of narcotic drugs. This step was taken because of the social and psychological dangers involved in the consumption of narcotic drugs. It was established that drug use has increased greatly among our youth. [Text] [Lima LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Oct 76 p 8] 8143

CSO: 5300

BELGIUM

POLICE BREAK UP NIGERIAN NETWORK

Brussels LE SOIR in French 27 Nov 76 p 1

[Article by J.-C.B.]

[Text] Although they had only received word that the occupants of a delivery truck were dumping rubbish on a bank parking lot, the Brussels police--investigating Wednesday evening--initiated the breaking up of a drug-trafficking network.

False-bottom Containers

Seeing four blacks flee, they made a search with the aid of the pertinent judicial squad and located the fugitives in Rue des Fleurs in an apartment belonging to one of them, a Nigerian. Seven arrests were made and upheld, for--among the containers, moving crates and objets d'art of the black race partly abandoned near the delivery van--there were containers with false bottoms. Inside the false bottoms there were 250 kilos of banghi, an African variety of hashish.

Value: 3 Million

It was a fresh drug but, all the same, one with a total value of 3 million [Belgian francs] and with an interesting aftermath at Antwerp, where a raid on the home of other Nigerians revealed a cache of opium and resulted in five other arrests.

A total of 12 Nigerians have been arrested. One of them was carrying a false passport.

Another Arrest at Brussels National Airport

Friday morning Deputy Public Prosecutor Reniers requested and was granted by the 20th chamber of Brussels' correctional court a postponement until 2 December of the trial of another Nigerian, who had been arrested upon arrival at the Brussels National Airport. This arrest resulted from the customary control procedures, which--during the preceding week--had intercepted, in 2 separate lots, a total of 15 kilos of hashish. The Brussels investigation of the "7" is being conducted by Mr Preuveneers.

BELGIUM

BELGIAN POLICE MAKE LARGE DRUG HAUL

Brussels LE SOIR in French 18 Nov 76 p 4

[Article by J.-C.B.]

[Text] Confiscated drugs having a retail value of some 30 million [Belgian francs] and 5 traffickers, whose names are still kept secret in the public prosecutor's office, are under lock and key. This successful operation was carried out in Brussels at the end of last week.

It had all begun accidentally with the arrest, in Molenbeck, of a fellow named Walter, a waiter in Saint-Gilles, sought in connection with the serving of a light sentence, by default, for traffic violations. We had given an account as follows: the police had found the traffic violator drugged and had seized a "357 Magnum" revolver and 4 kilos of what was believed to be heroin.

In reality, it was a mixture of morphine and codeine, two alkaloids used in pharmacy (codeine, particularly, is frequently used in cough syrups).

The investigation first centered on a Tervueren restaurant and on suspicious dealings between its cook and a scrap merchant, who gave a tip that narcotics were stockpiled at a Saint-Gilles tire merchant's place; here the police seized 5,100 kilos of pure cocaine--the "drug of the wealthy," the hard drug at 5,000 francs per gram.

The first persons arrested led [the police] to an individual working in a large pharmaceutical firm authorized to possess and produce narcotics. The unscrupulous workman still had 10 kilos of morphine at his home.

The 'Boss' Is on the Run

In the investigators' wanted list--as often happens in these affairs--"only" the head of the gang is missing, a Belgian like all his underlings.

Sought by Interpol, the boss--a wealthy Gypsy--is an old offender. His brother is in prison in the Netherlands for armed robbery. He himself,

officially "a painter and decorator boss," has, in reality, engaged very often in less honorable activities, to judge from his criminal record.

Married to a French woman, father of a family, he left everything there to run away--heaven knows where.

Although it is extremely difficult to know the clandestine market price of the drug, the amount seized--it is said--is valued at about 30 million. But to these grounds for satisfaction are added grounds for concern--namely, the ease with which the personnel of the prejudicial firm can steal sizable quantities of drugs in little packets at a time.

It is to be expected that the public prosecutor's office will take severe measures and suggest stricter controls. Already last year, the theft committed by an African storekeeper of that company had been in the criminal news.

8568

CSO: 5300

NETHERLANDS

BRIEFS

CUSTOMS OFFICERS CONFISCATE HEROIN--Dutch customs officers at the Werhout frontier station on the old Antwerp-Breda road arrested two Chinese from Singapore for drug trafficking. They were carrying 16 kilos of pure heroin in their valises at an estimated value of about 20 million Belgian francs. The abnormal weight of the valises had attracted the attention of the customs officials. The 2 men (24 and 26 years of age) were in a taxi and wanted to enter the Netherlands. They declared that, being unemployed in Singapore, they had met a stranger, who had suggested they carry these valises to Europe by plane. The Dutch authorities were unwilling to reveal at what airport the traffickers had landed. [Text] [Brussels LE SOIR in French 30 Nov 76 p 4] 8568

DUTCH POLICE CONFISCATE HASHISH--Amsterdam, 29 November (AFP)--The Dutch police dealt a severe blow to drug traffickers last weekend by intercepting more than 3,300 kilos of hashish in Rotterdam and Amsterdam. As a matter of fact, it was not 1 ton of Indian hemp that the police discovered Sunday evening aboard a Dutch barge, as initially reported, but 2,200 kilos. Moreover, a spokesman for the Amsterdam police announced Monday that--during the night of Friday to Saturday--the antidrug services had discovered 1,132 kilos of hashish in a Turkish semitrailer truck parked in one of the capital's parking lots. [Text] [Brussels LE SOIR in French 30 Nov 76 p 4] 8568

CSO: 5300

SPAIN

POLICE BREAK UP DRUG RING OPERATING IN SPAIN, ANDORRA

Madrid YA in Spanish 6 Nov 76 p 24

[Text] With the arrest of three Argentines, two Peruvians, a Frenchman, and three Spaniards, the Special Narcotics Brigade has broken up a group of drug traffickers operating in Spain and Andorra.

The surveillance and controls of the Special Narcotics Brigade resulted in clues concerning a possible shipment of cocaine to Madrid. An unobtrusive operation was set up that led to the identification of one of those spreading that rumor, Jose Manuel Melcon Lopez-Mingo, who, placed under observation, provided evidence of his relationship to Bernardo Lopez-Sanz Ruiz, who had also commented on the possible arrival of persons interested in the sale of cocaine.

The arrest was made shortly thereafter of the persons mentioned, as well as of Jaime Maura Unzue and the French citizen Henri Luis Ilhe at the moment the latter were weighing 200 grams of cocaine. The next to be arrested were two Argentines, both of them residents of Andorra: Carlos Alejandro Lujan Williams, from whom two tubes of medicine containing cocaine were seized, and his father, Carlos Jesus Lujan Williams Cuervo.

As it appeared that a brother of the Argentine Guillermo Lujan was also implicated in the traffic, an alert was sent the police in Andorra, who proceeded to arrest him and seize an additional amount of 427 grams of cocaine and a small quantity of hashish in one of the residences of the Lujan family in the principality. Additionally, the Special Narcotics Group of Barcelona having been notified, the Peruvians Francisco Perez Cuellar and Manuel Izaga Martinto were placed under arrest.

The police ascertained that the drug had been brought into Spain from Andorra and that it was planned to sell it in Madrid.

This operation has resulted in the complete disruption of this group of drug dealers. The seizure has been made of a large quantity of narcotics that could have represented substantial sums on the black market. A considerable amount of money, the proceeds of sales made, was also confiscated.

11532
CSO: 5300

SPAIN

BRIEFS

NARCOTICS ARRESTS--A number of persons have been arrested for the crimes of trafficking in and using drugs, some for trafficking and others for the consumption of narcotics. The police have confiscated heroin, amphetamines, hashish tablets, and other narcotics. Those arrested are Benito Nieto Carrion, 26, as well as Federico Martin Ortega and Valentin Collado Prada, who are also allegedly responsible for stealing from various automobiles. The arrests were also made of the young man Justo Beltran Gonzalez, 20, from whom a pipe, 12 shreds of hashish, and a knife were seized; Abdelkader Abselan Al-lal, 17, and another youth allegedly engaged in dealing in narcotics, who were in possession of hallucinogenic substances, including marihuana; Rufino Erguia Sierra, who had purchased drugs; Jose Luis Gordo Guerra, 20, and Ana Lopez Gomez, 22, who had in their possession 23 grams of hashish for use by them; Miguel Barrera Virseda, 23, and Gregorio Sanchez Vazquez, 26; Enrique Mendez Mira, from whom amphetamines and three orange-colored pills were seized; Jose Luis Paulete Garcia, 24; Cesar Martin Gomez, 18, and Juan Perez Perez, 19, who were transporting 6 portions of hashish; Enrique Fernandez Ferreruella, 26; Andres Gonzalez Munoz, 25, who had 15 hashish tablets hidden in his clothing, and Maria del Carmen Serrano Villa, 17. Carlos Diaz Rodriguez, 18; Carlos Anselmo Conde, 31; and Jose Martin Barrodo, 19, from whom 12 grams of heroin were seized, were also arrested for similar reasons. /Text/ /Madrid YA in Spanish 17 Nov 76 p 55/ 11532

COCAINE SEIZURE IN ANDORRA--Andorra, 20 Nov (CIFRA)--The police of the principality seized half a kilogram of cocaine, having a total value of 15 million pesos, as well as other narcotics. The operation was carried out in close coordination with the Antidrug Brigade of the Spanish police, who contacted the police of the principality to arrange the search of apartments whose tenants were suspected of being engaged in the drug traffic. In the first apartment, located in Santa Coloma, a quantity of pharmaceutical products of the narcotics type and a small amount of hashish were seized. In the second, in Andorra la Vella, the discovery was made of a bag containing almost half a kilo of 90-percent pure cocaine as well as the corresponding materials and utensils for its adulteration and subsequent marketing. The value of the drugs seized is estimated at 15 million pesetas on the black market. A South American was arrested as a possible member of the ring of traffickers in the principality, while the Spanish police carried out the arrest of four others possibly implicated in the case. /Text/ /Madrid YA in Spanish 21 Nov 76 p 23/ 11532

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UNITED KINGDOM

FOUR JAILED FOR RUNNING DRUG FACTORY

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 20 Nov 76 p 15

[Text] Four young men went to prison last night, their dreams of becoming millionaires from a massive drugs racket in ruins. The judge jailed each for 8 years at the High Court in Glasgow.

They are a millionaire's son, Jeremy Salmon, 26; his public school friend, Don Watkins, 27; and two Scots, 29-year-old Brian Robertson, who lives in London and Joseph McCartney, 34, of Milngavie, Dunbartonshire.

Lord Kissen told them: "I am making no distinction in sentencing because on the evidence the four of you were engaged in criminal activities which must be stamped out."

The jury took 4 hours to find Robertson and Watkins guilty of producing the drug amphetamine sulphate in houses on the outskirts of Glasgow.

Salmon and McCartney were found guilty of an alternative charge of being concerned in the drug production. All were convicted of possessing the drug with intent to supply it to others.

As Salmon was led from the dock he smiled to his father, Mr Brian Salmon, chairman of Lyons, the catering giants who recently sold 30 of their hotels to the Forte Group for 27.5 million pounds.

Parents Kiss

McCartney, the last to leave the dock, shouted to reporters sitting behind Det Chief Insp Jack Beattie, head of Strathclyde drug squad who led the raid: "If you want to know the time don't ask a policeman."

Salmon's father and mother, present throughout the 3 weeks of the trial, kissed as they awaited the sentence.

It was the end of one of Britain's biggest drug schemes and the most sophisticated, according to senior detectives.

The four got the idea from a book on drug-making which Robertson, a salesman and pop road manager, picked up while he was working as a salesman in America.

He put the project to Salmon, who was educated at Wellington College and had lost 20,000 pounds of his own and his father's money financing pop groups. He wanted to recoup his losses.

The golden rule of drug-making, they learned, was to order supplies through companies rather than individuals.

Salmon ploughed another 8,000 pounds into a new pop group called Long Vehicle and rented an expensive house in Cruachan Road in the Glasgow suburb of Bearsden. Ostensibly the house was to provide lodgings for the group.

It became Britain's most sophisticated drugs factory, capable of churning out millions of pounds worth.

To get the supplies, Robertson set up a phoney perfume company called Matthew Jenkins Incorporated, with a false address and fake telephone number.

No one would think it odd, he thought, because phenol acetate acid, an essential for making of drugs, can also be used for perfumes.

The staff at a Buckinghamshire chemical laboratory thought that one of his orders was rather big.

Yard Warned

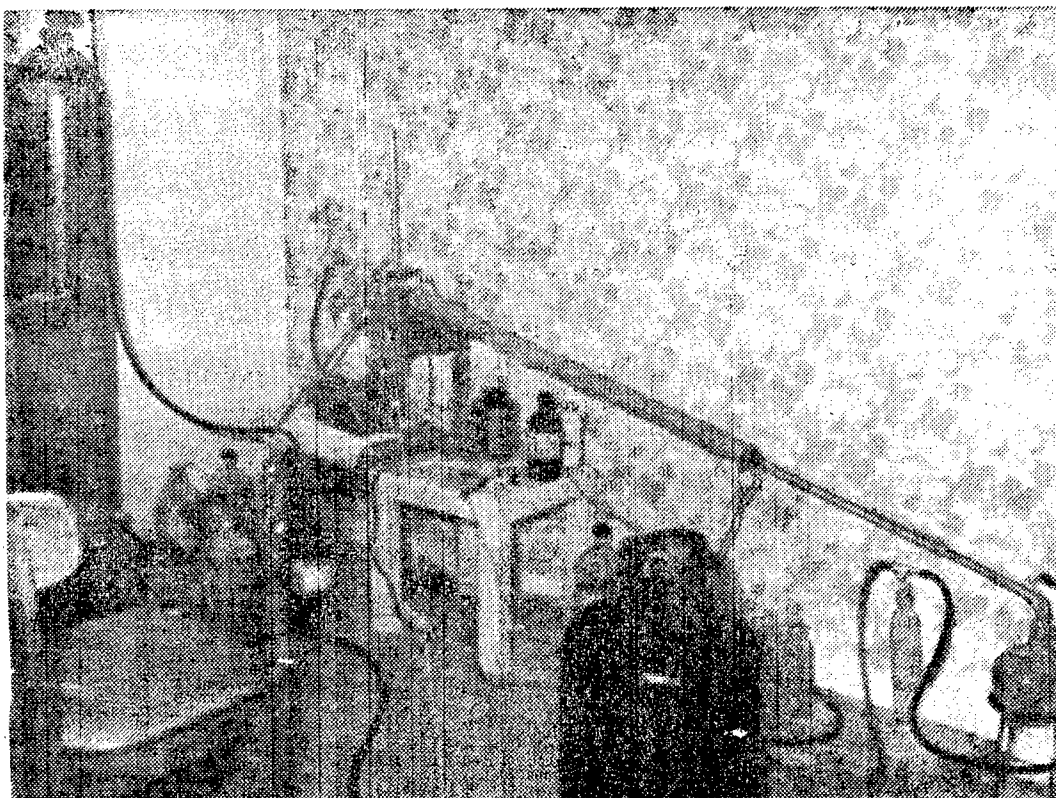
They told the Home Office and Scotland Yard drug squad detectives waited outside the laboratory to see who picked up the consignment.

Detectives followed a hired van to Euston Station where the drugs containing the acid were loaded aboard a Glasgow-bound train.

They trailed Salmon's black Mercedes to McCourtney's house in Stewart Street, Milngavie, 2 miles away from the house in Bearsden. Next day Det Chief Insp Beattie decided it was time to move in.

As the detectives turned over the house, hoping to find something that would lead to a conviction, McCourtney, a small-time Glasgow crook, gave Mr Beattie the address of the house in Cruachan Road, Bearsden.

The court heard that four had ordered enough supplies to make 1.25 million pounds worth of drugs but experts agreed the figure could be more than 4 million pounds.



The drugs factory in a Glasgow house run by four men who were each jailed for eight years yesterday.

Jeremy Salmon

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UNITED KINGDOM

HEROIN ADDICTION REACHES EPIDEMIC PROPORTIONS

Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 10 Nov 76 p 17

[Text] London (CP)--Heroin addiction in Britain has reached epidemic proportions, with an estimated 10,000 pushers and a weekly turnover of around \$7 million, police and customs officials say.

First indications of a huge smuggling racket have been revealed by Scotland Yard's drug squad and the investigation branch of customs and excise.

They say that in two operations 25 pounds of heroin were recovered on their way into Britain but at least 21 pounds got through. The total of 46 pounds would have had a street value of \$8.8 million.

"This just the tip of an iceberg," a customs officer said, "We are not deluding ourselves and by the law of averages we are only catching a small portion of what is coming in."

It is thought that as many as 10 cells of smugglers are at work in Britain, operating in such cities as London, Manchester and Liverpool. Between them they could be marketing about 5 pounds a day which, at an average of \$200,000 a pound, would put something like \$7 million through the hands of the smugglers every week.

"It works like a pyramid," the customs officer said. "No addict could possibly afford the money he would need to obtain, say, a gram a day, which is a fair average figure. So he buys adulterated heroin at lower prices.

Scotland Yard officials believe that more than 40,000 people in Britain are hooked on heroin. They say that, as the number of addicts increases, so probably does the price of the drug, due largely to the successful operations of police and customs men.

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UNITED KINGDOM

BRIEFS

CANNABIS SEIZURE--Five men are to appear in court in Gloucester today to face charges concerning a cannabis consignment worth 250,000 pounds, seized at Liverpool Docks. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 22 Nov 76 p 15]

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END